

Proclamation

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall physical and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses causes a greater burden of disability than other life threatening diseases in lost years of healthy life; and

WHEREAS, more than 23,000 individuals in Hawai'i suffer from severe and persistent mental illness, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder; and

WHEREAS, suicide – which is often the result of untreated or inadequately treated mental illness – is the leading cause of injury deaths in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of homeless women in Hawai'i suffer from mental illness, as homelessness and mental illness often co-occur; and

WHEREAS, two out of three young people and adults with diagnosable mental disorders do not obtain the care they need; and

WHEREAS in any given year, 42,000 adults report an episode of major depression; and

WHEREAS, stigma, shame, discrimination, lack of understanding and acceptance are the main reasons people do not seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i is committed to improving the care and treatment needed to provide to our mentally ill citizens; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2006, the Mental Health Association in Hawai'i will host its first annual Mental Health Awards Luncheon at the Japanese Cultural Center's Manoa Ballroom; and

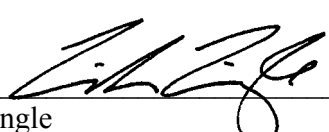
WHEREAS, this awards luncheon will acknowledge outstanding individuals and programs, whose efforts have provided improved services to those who suffer with mental illnesses, as well as helping to reduce the stigma of mental illness in our islands,

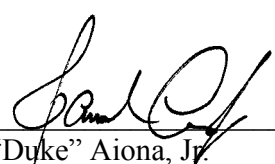
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim May 2006, as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to re-commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, and provide effective and accessible services for all people suffering from this disease.

Done at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-seventh day of April 2006.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i